



Directorate of Emergency Services Provost Marshal's Office



SNAP COMMUNITY OBSERVER'S AUTHORITY

SNAP!



Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program



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Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide information on the limits of your authority while volunteering as a SNAP community observer.



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Agenda

- Learning objectives
- Community observer's role
- Community observer's liability
- Limits of authority for a community observer
- Conclusion



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Learning Objectives

- Describe a community observer's role
- Describe a community observer's legal liability
- Describe a community observer's authority



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Community Observer's Role

- Eyes and ears only
- Reporters and observers
- Not law enforcement officers or Military Police volunteers
- Not vigilantes
- Should not become involved with suspicious persons or suspected criminals
- Avoid confrontation, and/or arguments with people
- Treat everyone with respect and civility



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Community Observers' Liability

- Community observer volunteers do not have protection against criminal or civil liability under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- Volunteers may be individually liable for criminal and civil charges if they exceed their authority



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Community Observers' Authority

- As a community observer volunteer – you have **ABSOLUTELY NO** police powers or powers of apprehension over anyone, beyond that of a private citizen
- As a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, there are some powers of apprehension over persons who are subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice – **However, such application is strongly discouraged!!!** – Remember, as a community observer, your role is to OBSERVE AND REPORT



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CONCLUSION

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